



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

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For Immediate Release

October 25, 2007

**PHILADELPHIA MAN INDICTED FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY WEBSITE**

Philadelphia - United States Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the filing of a Superseding Indictment<sup>1</sup> charging Robert P. Merz with one count of advertising child pornography, one count of receiving child pornography, and one count of possession of child pornography. It is the first case in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to charge advertising child pornography. The superseding indictment alleges that Merz was the administrator of a child pornography message board on the Internet, entitled "my Kingdom". It is further alleged that Merz placed a notice and advertisement on the board explaining the rules of the forum, the purpose of the forum, and the general content of the pictures of the children to be posted on the forum. That notice and advertisement read, in part, as follows: "This forum is for nudes and non nude pictures, galleries, and videos of children, . . . ages 0-17, both female and males. . . . Whether it is a boy and a girl, or one or the other, we are here for the same reason, we like see the nude body of children".

"People who victimize children are among the most reprehensible people we prosecute," said Meehan. "According to the indictment, this defendant was not only exploiting children, he flaunted his activity and invited others to participate in and even feed his depravity."

According to the indictment, Merz knowingly made, printed, and published a notice and advertisement for the purpose of reproducing visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The production of these images involved the use of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

**INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT**

NAME	ADDRESS	YEAR OF BIRTH
ROBERT P. MERZ	Philadelphia, PA	1963

If convicted, the defendant faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 60 years imprisonment with a maximum possible sentence of life imprisonment, a \$750,000 fine, 3 years of supervised release, and a special assessment of \$300.

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<sup>1</sup> An Indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/>.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Denise S. Wolf.

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